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Letter, May 14th, Oscar D. Ladley to [No Salutation]

Oscar D. Ladley

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[Enclosed with L.
of 16 May 1863]

HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH CORPS,

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 9. }

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Near Brooke's Station, Va., May 10th, 1863.

As your Commanding General I cannot fail to notice a feeling of depression on the part of a portion of this Corps. Some obloquy has been cast upon us on account of the affair of Saturday, May 2d. I believe that such a disaster might have happened to any other Corps of this Army, and do not distrust my command.

Every officer who failed to do his duty by not keeping his men together, and not rallying them when broken, is conscious of it, and must profit by the past.

I confidently believe that every honorable officer and every brave man earnestly desires an opportunity to advance against the enemy, and demonstrate to the army and to the country that we are not wanting in principle or patriotism. Your energy, sustained and directed under the divine blessing, shall yet place the Eleventh Corps ahead of them all.

O. O. HOWARD,

Major General Commanding.

OFFICIAL :

Assistant Adjutant General.

may 14th

If they whose business it was to guard against a flank movement or surprise, had attended to their duty such an Order as the above would never have to be issued. We were almost surrounded and had to fight out as well as to fight away. The newspapers plaster it over and lay the blame all on the men of the Corps.

Col. Lee of the 53rd Inf. went to
Gen Howard about a half hour
before the attack was made and
told the General that the Enemy were
massing on our right and rear.
Howard told him he had better
go back and attend to his Regt.
and made the remark that the
Col. was more scared than
hurt. In about twenty minutes
the enemy came, the 2nd Brigade
fought them without support
untill they were almost entirely
cut off then and not till
then did they leave.

Our Brig. consisting of five Regts.
had four cols & two Lt. cols.
Killed or wounded, two have since
died, Col. Reily of our Regt has
died since.

There is an effort being made to
get this Brig. out of this corps.
The wounded are still coming
in from the field. Col Reily's
body will be in to day.
Lew Campbell of Ohio Reily's brother
in law is here. We have heard
nothing of Cap. Morey yet -
Y. S. boys are all safe -

O D L